



POLICY AND PROCEDURE

No. 26-07

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE COMMISSION

EFFECTIVE DATE:

09/15/01

TITLE

Use and Wearing of Traffic Safety Vests During Incidents
On Arterials, Highways and Streets

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE INTERIM POLICY

USE AND WEARING OF TRAFFIC SAFETY VESTS DURING INCIDENTS ON ARTERIALS, HIGHWAYS, AND STREETS

Issued by: Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission
Policy No. 26-07

Authority: Montgomery County Code Section 21-2.(d)(2)
Effective Date: September 1, 2001

SUMMARY:

This proposed interim policy requires personnel who are operating at the scene of incidents occurring on arterials, highways, or streets to wear a minimum level of protective clothing with reflective striping to ensure their visibility. The reflective trim package applied to structural firefighting gear satisfies the intent of this policy to ensure personnel visibility on the scene of incidents. Personnel must wear traffic safety vests, or another garment with a reflective striped surface equal to or greater than that of the traffic safety vest, to ensure their visibility when they are not wearing structural firefighting protective coats.

DEADLINES

Division of Fire and Rescue Services Review: May 31, 2001
Local Fire and Rescue Departments Review: May 31, 2001
Montgomery County Fire Board Review: May 31, 2001

ADDRESS:

Please send all comments pertaining to the proposed policy to Beth Feldman, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, 12th Floor, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to beth.feldman@co.mo.md.us.

STAFF:

For additional information, please call Beth Feldman, Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service, on (240) 777-2423.

BACKGROUND:

This safety policy is being adopted on an interim basis and will be replaced on the adoption of a permanent and comprehensive policy on the use and wearing of protective clothing. The intent of this policy is to require personnel to wear protective clothing with reflective striping to ensure their visibility and enhance their safety while on the incidents occurring on arterials, highways, or streets.



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Sec. 1. **Purpose:** To establish an interim policy requiring all fire and rescue personnel who are on the scene of incidents on arterials, highways, or streets to wear protective clothing with reflective striping to ensure their visibility.

Sec. 2. **Applicability.** This interim policy applies to all fire and rescue personnel when they are operating or are present on the scene of incidents on arterials, highways, or streets.

Sec. 3. **Definitions.**

- a. **Arterials/Highways/Streets.** All interstates, spurs, collector lanes, exit ramps, and right of ways leading to or from an interstate roadway, or any County, State, or private roadway.
- b. **Personnel.** All on-duty firefighter, rescuer, and emergency medical service provider personnel, including career, volunteer, and County Merit System employees of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service.
- c. **Traffic Safety Vests.** Issued vests with reflective striping that meet the standards below, as established by the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Commission.

Sec. 4. **Policy.** It is the goal of the Fire and Rescue Commission to implement and enforce policies that ensure the safety of all Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service **personnel**. This interim policy requires **personnel** who are on the scene of incidents occurring on **arterials/highways/streets** to wear **traffic safety vests** or other appropriate garment with a reflective surface at all times to ensure their visibility. The requirement to wear appropriate garments with a reflective surface is intended solely to increase safety by improving the visibility of **personnel**, and does not affect the operational requirements of this or any other MCFRS policy.

- a. The Incident Commander will evaluate the risks on an incident scene and may designate any location a "**traffic safety vest** required" incident if wearing a **traffic safety vest** will ensure **personnel** visibility and enhance their safety.



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- b. All **personnel** who are working, standing, or are otherwise present on incident scenes on **arterials/highways/streets** must wear a **traffic safety vest** if they are not wearing the structural firefighting coat or sector/command vest. **Personnel** must wear a **traffic safety vest** or other garment with a reflective striped surface equal to or greater than that of the **traffic safety vest** if they remove their structural firefighting protective coat but remain on the incident scene.
- c. All **personnel** must wear a **traffic safety vest** or another garment with a reflective striped surface that is equal to or greater than that of the **traffic safety vest** if they are at an incident on an **arterial/highway/street**, regardless of the incident type or their role on the incident scene. If **traffic safety vests** are unavailable, **personnel** must wear a structural firefighting protective coat, sector/command vest, EMS gear, a group/division vest, or other similar garment with reflective striping.

Sec. 5. Responsibilities.

- a. The Incident Commander is responsible for ensuring that all **personnel** wear a **traffic safety vest**, structural firefighting coat, or other appropriate reflective marked garment.
- b. All **personnel** who are on the incident scene must wear the appropriate safety garment, as determined by the Incident Commander

Sec. 6. **Enforcement.** The Fire Administrator is the enforcement authority for all policies and regulations of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service.

Sec. 7. **Effective Date.** This policy is effective on September 1, 2001.

Attest:

Gordon A. Aoyagi, Chairman
Fire and Rescue Commission

September 1, 2001
Date

Use and Wearing of Traffic Safety Vest policy bf wp

MONTGOMERY COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Training Guidelines: Traffic Safety Vest

All Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service officers must ensure that personnel in their command are familiar with the new Interim Policy #26-07, ***Use and Wearing of Traffic Safety Vests on Arterials, Highways, and Streets***. This brief guideline emphasizes key points to include in that training.

MOTIVATOR: Why are we providing these vests? To help prevent MCFRS personnel from becoming victims while rendering assistance at incidents on arterials, highways, and streets. The trainer should mention that police officers and firefighters/rescuers have been injured or killed while participating in emergency operations on streets and roadways.

DEFINITIONS TO NOTE:

Arterials/Highways/Streets. All interstates, spurs, collector/distributor lanes, exit ramps, and right of ways leading to or from an interstate roadway, or any County, State, or private roadway.

Personnel. All MCFRS on-duty firefighters, rescuers, and emergency medical service providers.

Traffic Safety Vests. Issued vests with reflective striping at least 1 inch wide across the front and back of the garment.

POLICY: To enhance safety by ensuring their visibility, MCFRS personnel who are operating or on incident scenes occurring on arterials, highways, or streets must wear traffic safety vests or a similar appropriate garment (including turnout gear) with a reflective surface.

RESPONSIBILITY: Incident Commanders must evaluate the risks on an incident scene and may designate that incident a “traffic safety vest required” call.

TRAFFIC SAFETY VEST DAMAGED/MISSING REPORT

Please complete this form to report damaged or missing traffic safety vests and return it to the MCFRS Property Section by house mail.

Station _____ Shift _____ Date _____ Item _____

Unit # _____ is missing _____ (number) of assigned Traffic Safety Vests. The vest was lost or determined to be missing (comments): _____

Unit # _____ has _____ (number) damaged Traffic Safety Vests. The vest(s) was/were damaged (comments): _____

Sign/Print _____ Station Officer

Sign/Print _____ Station Commander

Sign/Print _____ SCO or LFRD Chief